




County of Los Angeles CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

713 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
(213) 974-1101
<http://cao.co.la.ca.us>

DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

September 13, 2006

To: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
From: 
David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

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Fifth District

FARMERS' MARKET ON MALL OF KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION

On August 8, 2006, the Board requested a report on recommendations to establish a weekly certified farmers' market in the mall area of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration. This memo provides an update on our efforts.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture, recognizing the importance of farmer-to-consumer sales, pursued the enactment of legislation and implementing regulations to provide for certified farmers' markets. Producers are able to sell their own agricultural products directly to consumers with exemptions from container, label and sizing requirements. This direct marketing approach has grown dramatically in recent years.

Within the County, there are 88 certified farmers' markets regulated by the County's Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures Department. Currently, 148 certified producers, located primarily in the Antelope Valley, contribute to and participate in the local markets. A certified farmers' market is held on the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration mall annually during National Farmers' Market Week in August.

A weekly event would require the necessary permits. Also, there are many factors taken into consideration when deciding whether to establish a certified farmers' market. For example, the small farmers must be certified and annual inspections conducted of their products. These inspections would be conducted by the Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures Department. When a small farmer is approved

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to participate in a certified farmers' market, it is for specific products. As the seasons change, the small farmer must be re-certified for substitute agricultural products. Unannounced on-site inspections would also be required to ensure compliance.

Discussions have been initiated with the CAO Workplace Programs, and the CAO Permits and Concession Management Unit and the Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures Department to discuss the requirements for operating a weekly farmers' market. We are reviewing the statutes and authorizing regulations contained in the Direct Marketing in the Food and Agricultural Code. We are also discussing liability issues with the County Counsel's Office.

A complete report of recommendations will be submitted in 30 days.

If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact me or your staff may contact Victoria Pipkin-Lane of my staff at (213) 974-2495.

DEJ:GK
VPL:dd

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Agricultural Weights/Measures Department